

A final characteristic is stewardship. Roosevelt Dam and SRP have been leaders in renewable water and power for Arizona during the past century, and must continue to do so to ensure Arizona's future. From the beginning of the 20th century, SRP's visionary founders were advocates for Arizona as they used federal resources to build Roosevelt Dam, which created the state's largest sustainable water supply.

Mr. Speaker, Roosevelt Dam and SRP have been with us since before Statehood. This vital bedrock of infrastructure, and the home-grown organization that operates it, will continue to be stewards for Arizona's future prosperity.

HONORING DANIELLE COLSON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young lady from South Florida, who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Danielle Colson, 18, of Pembroke Pines has been named one of the top honorees in Florida by the 2011 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Colson, a senior at American Heritage School in Plantation, is being recognized for distributing 4,500 backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletries to needy children and people living in homeless shelters since 2007. Danielle, who volunteers at the shelter and has also collected other items for its residents, encourages members of the community and students at local schools to make donations to support her backpack project.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our town and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Colson are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. Prudential Financial created the program that brought this young role model to our attention in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their lead. Over the past 16 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has more than 95,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily applaud Ms. Colson for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of many. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly exemplary, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans

can, and do, play important roles in our communities, and American's community spirit endures and holds promise for the future.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Transylvania County in Western North Carolina. Transylvania, a county of 29,000 residents, is home to picturesque beauty and is known as the "Land of Waterfalls."

In 1861, Representative Joseph P. Jordan introduced a bill to the North Carolina House of Commons to establish a new county. Transylvania County was then formed and held its first County Commission meeting on May 20th of that year. This day is notable in North Carolina's history as it represents the day the State seceded from the Union. The next day, Transylvania County possessed no money, courthouse, jail, or a bank, yet was busily mustering a company of volunteers to serve for the Confederacy.

A century later, Transylvania County led the State of North Carolina in fully integrating its public school system. In 1963, Brevard High School became the first high school in the State to field integrated athletic teams.

Over one-third of the County's area is comprised of national and state parks and forests. This includes Blue Ridge Parkway, DuPont State Forest, Gorges State Park, Caesar's Head, Holmes Educational State Forest, and Pisgah National Forest. From the spectacular views from Chestnut Knob to the humbling cascades at Pisgah National Forest's Looking Glass Falls and the other 249 waterfalls in the area, Transylvania County embodies all that is Appalachian.

On February 15, 2011, Transylvania County will hold a very special public gathering celebrating the 150th anniversary of its formation by the North Carolina Assembly. This will launch a year-long series of events, activities and education. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Transylvania's sesquicentennial and its contributions to the United States and the great State of North Carolina.

INTRODUCING THE RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT OF 2011

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Retirement Savings Access Act of 2011. This legislation would allow financially struggling Americans access to their retirement dollars without penalty.

As the economic downturn continues, most Americans who have fallen on hard times are not looking for the Federal Government to bail them out. Instead, they are simply asking for the government to get off their backs.

Currently, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) levies a 10% penalty on all early withdrawals from Investment Retirement Accounts (IRAs), meaning money that is taken out of an account before a beneficiary turns 59½ years old. This provision encourages saving for retirement and planning for the future, but it is a menacing tax to levy on people who are in dire financial straits, such as the unemployed.

This legislation would exempt individuals who have already exhausted the standard 26 weeks of unemployment benefits from the tax penalty they would otherwise normally incur for a withdrawal from their retirement accounts before they reach 59½ years of age.

We have bailed out Wall Street financial institutions and propped up the ailing automotive sector. But it is our constituents who are hurting the most, and this legislation would help them access their own money without a government penalty for doing so.

HONORING MICHAEL STARKS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Michael Starks, the first African-American graduate of Tulane University School of Law and the first African-American lawyer in the New Orleans City Attorney's office. As the Congressman from New Orleans and a graduate of Tulane University School of Law, I would like to call attention to Mr. Stark, a man whose dedication to the legal institution knew no bounds.

Mr. Starks, was a native New Orleanian who graduated from the University of New Orleans and the first African-American admitted to Tulane's law school. He graduated from Tulane's School of Law in 1968.

He served as an Assistant City Attorney during the tenure of three mayors. After leaving City Hall, Mr. Starks was an attorney for the Housing Authority of New Orleans until Hurricane Katrina struck.

Mr. Starks passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at Life Path Hospice in Temple Terrace, Florida at the age of 67.

He was survived by his sister, Sandra McCollum, and daughter, Michelle Starks, and granddaughter.

I am saddened by his passing, in prayer for his family, and inspired by his life's achievements.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to recognize Mr. Michael Starks.

FIGHTING MEDICARE FRAUD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman WALLY HERGER (R-CA) to re-introduce the Strengthening Medicare Anti-Fraud Measures Act.

This bipartisan legislation is a direct byproduct of a joint hearing held by the Ways and Means Health and Oversight Subcommittees